

Following a discussion with counsel on _____, it is
ORDERED

1. A settlement conference shall be held before the undersigned with counsel and representatives of the parties at _____ on _____ in chambers, United States District Courthouse, _____, Iowa. The parties' representatives and/or counsel shall be prepared to participate and negotiate a settlement of this case during the conference in accordance with the following paragraphs.

2. Unless excused by order of the court, upon good cause shown, clients or client representatives with complete authority to negotiate and consummate a settlement shall be in attendance at the settlement conference. This requirement contemplates the presence of the client or if a corporate, governmental, or other organizational entity, an authorized representative of the client. For a defendant, such representative must have final settlement authority to commit the organization to pay, in the representative's discretion, a settlement amount up to the plaintiff's prayer, or up to the plaintiff's last demand, whichever is lower. For a plaintiff, such representative must have final authority, in the representative's discretion, to authorize dismissal of the case with prejudice, or to accept a settlement amount down to the defendant's last offer. Any insurance company that is a party or is contractually required to defend or to pay damages, if any, assessed within its policy limits in this case must have a fully authorized settlement representative present. Such representative must have final settlement authority to commit the company to pay, in the representative's discretion, an amount within the policy limits, or up to the plaintiff's last demand, whichever is lower. Any application to excuse attendance by the client or client representative must be made by letter to the court received at least three days prior to the date of the settlement conference and only after consultation with opposing counsel. The purpose of this requirement is to have representatives present who can settle the case during the course of the settlement conference without consulting a superior who is not present.

3. Counsel appearing for the settlement conference without their client representatives or insurance company representatives, authorized as described above, may cause the settlement conference to be canceled and rescheduled. Further, the non-complying party, attorney, or both may be assessed the costs and expenses incurred by other parties and the court as a result of such failure to attend. Counsel are responsible for timely advising any involved non-party insurance company of the requirements of this order.

4. Prior to the settlement conference proceedings, counsel shall discuss settlement with their respective clients and insurance representatives, and opposing counsel so the parameters of settlement have been explored well in advance of the settlement conference. If as a result of such discussions, counsel for any party believes that the parties' respective settlement positions are so divergent, or for any other reason, that settlement is not reasonably possible in this matter, he or she shall seek a conference with the undersigned and opposing counsel, by telephone or otherwise, to determine whether the settlement conference should be canceled or postponed. If such a conference is sought, it shall be sought soon enough that

fees and expenses otherwise to be incurred in the convening of a settlement conference can be avoided, normally at least two working days before the settlement conference.

5. A settlement conference statement of each party may be submitted directly to the undersigned no later than two working days prior to the conference, setting forth the relevant positions of the parties concerning factual issues, issues of law, damages, and the settlement negotiation history of the case, including a recitation of any specific demands and offers that may have been conveyed. The settlement conference statement may not exceed five (5) pages in length and will not be made a part of the case file. They will receive all protection afforded pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 408.